

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

DL 7, NO. 17

26

APRIL 15, 1956

WE'RE OUT TO WIN!

Tremendous unity, strength and determination gripped each and every member of Local I-S as their picketlines circled Macy's stores in Herald Square, Parkchester, Flatbush, Jamaica and White Plains. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that this unity and strength will pay off in the form of a decent contract and a greater measure of respect from the company in its future dealings with the Union.



With dramatic and eloquent evidence of true labor unity before their very eyes, the membership once again gave a resounding and unanimous "No!" to Macy's "final offer" at an April 10th membership meeting at Manhattan Center. The members rose and cheered as City CIO Council President Michael J. Quill and Mr. Joseph Cohen, president of the Butchers Local, pledged their fullest support.

While individual drivers for United Parcel were demonstrating their continued loyalty to honored trade union traditions, it was not a matter of official policy that kept trucks from crossing the I-S picketlines.

Speaking for the butchers who work in the 34th Street store, Mr. Cohen said, "We'll cross your line just once—and that is to take the meat out! There will be no meat sold in Macy's for the duration of your strike—and you can be sure that nobody can break your strike so long as you are determined to win!"

Quill brought a tremendous roar of approval from every member present as he thundered that, "Every union in the city of New York will be represented on the picketlines with you!"

And then, with a flash of wit that is one of his trademarks, Mr. Quill added, "You should have no trouble with the police, since they are in the same boat as you. They'll be picketing down

(Continued on page 4)

ing sentiment argued for "strike now!" on the morning of April 3rd, but final decision was to empower the Executive Board to call stoppage at most opportune time."



WALKING TO VICTORY—NIGHT AND DAY—WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

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BRANCH STORE NEWS

FLATBUSH



Rose Nagler

At the time of writing, everything is up in the air. When you read this, we will either be celebrating victory over Macy's and have a new and better working contract—or we will all be marching on the picket line. However, one thing comes to mind now—and that is the importance of solidarity and unity in a crisis. Your reporter feels confident that a united front of all union members will again assure victory for us—higher wages, better working conditions and retention of all the gains we have made up to now. The final word in the gray dawn of contract negotiations is **UNITY!** . . . Crisis, shmysis—life goes on. And so we wish to extend congratulations to two sweet girls with sweet voices, Luc Baird and Julie Burke—of the Switchboard, who have become grandmothers. Others who have joined the ranks of the grandmother's brigade are Kitty Daly (Flyer), and Ann Finn (Shoes). All together, girls—Put on Your Old Gray Bonnets . . . Greetings to Dotty McCrum (Silver), Reba Schwartz (Rugs) and Rose Karin (Flyer)—all back from recent vacations . . . Welcome to Helen Jacobs, Service Desk, back after a long illness . . . Speedy recovery to Elsie Rule, Packer-Cashier, who is out ill . . . Hate to do this, but must once again appeal for your help in gathering items for the column How about it???

WHITE PLAINS

Well, as of this writing date your "country cousins" in White Plains are more united and feel more a real part of Local 1-S than ever before. We all reported to the YMCA as instructed, and while the place was much too small for our tremendous turnout we were made as comfortable as possible and were assured of a much larger meeting place next time. Our Store Committee, Jim Heleringer, Fred Ernst and Helen Ruderman have shown real leadership in the work of setting up our Mobilization Committee, which is designed to handle every detail in the event of a strike. The meeting at the "Y" was conducted by our chairman. Our morale was certainly boosted to see the tremendous turnout at Manhattan Center on our TV screens. We were especially proud of the way our officers—Sam, Phil and Bill—appeared and spoke on the program. The comment was all favorable, and we certainly feel that it reflected to the credit of our Union to have the public looking in and seeing us at work. Brothers and sisters, the report from this section is that we are solidly united and well prepared for an all-out fight with Macy's, if that is necessary. All of us have a role in winning this fight—whether we have received assignments or not. It is hard to predict what the next few days will bring so far as Macy's is concerned, but we do know that the unity and strength we have molded should last for a long, long time to come—whether we have a strike or not!

JAMAICA

Things here in Jamaica have been rolling at top speed for so long now we're almost breathless. At this point, the suspense is killing! Do we or don't we??? Walk, that is! The burning questions of the last several days have all revolved around the possibility of a strike—and whether Macy's is going to be foolish and arrogant enough to feel our muscles. After our meeting at Jamaica Hall on April 3rd, there is agreement everywhere that we are ready—and that if we've got to go—why, we'll go! The meeting was terrific. A wonderful turnout and a wonderful feeling. Seeing and hearing everything that was going on at Manhattan Center gave us a good feeling of closeness—and even as packed in as we were, it was nice to feel that there were thousands more friends who are just as close, even though separated by a couple of miles . . . Of course, the biggest question will be answered before this issue is even in the mail. But no matter what the answer may be—the important thing is that we are ready—and judging by what we saw of our friends at Manhattan Center—they're ready—and it's probably a safe guess to say that the same is true in each of the other stores as well. So I guess there is just one more thing to say—and that is a message to Macy's: All we want is serious consideration of our demands and a fair break. We've earned both—and without threat or bluster, we mean to have them—one way or another!

PARKCHESTER



Fay Abbate

With everything that has been going on, we have still added a couple of grandmothers to our list. Mrs. Lefkowitz of P10 was presented with a grandson, while Doris Godnick's (P7) daughter Marilyn presented her with a granddaughter. Congratulations to both of you! . . . Marie Shields of P10 is now MRS. Taylor. She was married a few weeks back—and this is our first chance to publicly say "best wishes" . . . Not long after a meeting of all executives, at which they were cautioned against doing anything to upset the delicate state of relations between the Union and the company as negotiations neared a showdown, one exec started singing to the people of her department, "Tramp, tramp, tramp, you girls are marching . . ." This executive apparently does not have too much regard for those who give her her orders, or for the feelings of the people she is supposed to supervise. The people in the store, however, gave their answer loud and clear when we gathered at the Chester House on the morning of April 3rd. There was no mistaking the readiness of the people to do what had to be done. Not that anyone was going out of his way to look for a fight, but if Macy's was not going to sit down and talk sense, then they were willing to help make the company see the light. That's all!

Special Meeting on April 3rd Was Dress Rehearsal for Real Thing

In a dress rehearsal for what became the real thing, Macy's was forced to postpone opening of the big Herald Square store until 10:15 on the morning of April 3rd as the workers reported to Manhattan Center and meeting places in the outlying areas instead of to work.

The special meetings had been called when it became apparent that the Union's officers and negotiators had spent a fruitless week in trying to force Macy's to yield to the just demands which had been under discussion since January 16th.

Reports by President Sam Kovenetsky, Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and Bill Atkinson and attorney Asher Schwartz all underscored the fact that the meeting itself was the first massive weight which had been thrown against Macy's since the talks got underway.

The reports of Macy's "offer"

and attitude were carried to the branch stores and to the shopping public by way of television's WABD on Channel 5.

It was with a tremendous roar of disgust and disapproval that the thousands of members who had jammed the meeting places flatly rejected the company's "offer" and voted their officers and Executive Board the authority to call a strike "at the most opportune time."

Major debate of the meeting revolved around "when do we walk." Strong sentiment favored converting the special meeting into the start of the walkout. Others felt that with the meeting as a potent symbol of unity and strength it was wiser to go back once more and try to win from Macy's more of what had been demanded.

One speaker after another expressed the view that "nobody wants to strike, but if that is the only thing Macy's understands,

let's do it!"

And everyone who spoke echoed the sentiment that "Macy's offer is an insult to our intelligence and a disgrace!"

It remained for President Kovenetsky to sum up the discussion and to advise brief delay.

"It is better," he said, "that we go out slowly and come back slowly than we go out in haste and come back that way."

The President did not reflect optimism over reaching a settlement, but strongly expressed the belief that a little more time be given to the task of trying to win peacefully that which everyone was ready and willing to battle for on the picketlines.

When the President's explanations were finished the members voted for strike "at the most opportune time," and there matters rested until 12:01 A.M., Tuesday, April 10th.



THE EYES OF NEW YORK were on Local 1-S as officers reported to members at Manhattan Center and in outlying areas. TV station WABD carried the full reports which led to unanimous strike authorization.



PLENTY TO SAY. When the reports were finished the members themselves had plenty to say. All favored rejection of Macy's "offer," disagreed only on the question of when, not whether, to strike.

HELP!

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LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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Talking Shop

By Vice Presidents



Phil Hoffstein

and

Bill Atkinson

AMONG THE UNSUNG pillars of our Union's strength is that relatively small group of men and women we know as Saturday-onlies. Of course, they are not "Saturday-onlies" any more, but in many cases work side by side with full and part timers on Mondays and Thursdays, in addition to Saturday.

Before Local 1-S was forced to strike on April 14, 1953 in support of its contract demands, one of the most persistent questions asked by many was, "Do you think the Saturday-onlies will respect our picket lines?" The SO's made their answer loud and clear when more than 800 of them signed application cards for membership in our Union. There was little question of their respecting picket lines.

LATER THAT YEAR, in October of 1953 to be exact, the Saturday-onlies voted in a National Labor Relations Board election—and there were only 72 who would have preferred to be without a union.

Since that time, the Saturday-onlies have been "one of the family." They have shown—on every occasion afforded them—that they are first class citizens within Local 1-S. Naturally, our gains are their gains. When we win a raise, they win it too. When we win additional security, they, too, are more secure.

But the important thing is that this group—which was the last to be organized in Macy's—took its place as a full partner in the fight. This group, which, before it was organized was Macy's last hope of union-busting from within, demonstrated clearly that they knew that the union way is the only way of moving ahead.

IT WOULD BE EASY TO SAY that these men and women have every reason to like and think highly of our Union. But there is more to it than that.

In a very real sense, the Saturday-onlies are neglected. We do not see more than a handful of them at our Divisional Meetings, largely because they are not free on the evenings they are not working in Macy's. Many come to our general membership meetings—but they are still a small part of the total.

Despite the fact that our contact with them is limited, they have become and remained, good union members. And this is a tribute to their own understanding, as well as to the constructive influence of many of our full and part time members.

THE FULL-TIMER HAS AN ADVANTAGE over everybody else, because he is the one who is most constantly aware of everything that is going on. It is the full-timer who gets almost every leaflet the Union hands out—while the part-timer has to rely, most usually, on a chance glimpse of what the Union has to say. The Saturday-only, except on those occasions when events dictate a Saturday distribution, is left almost entirely in the dark until the next issue of his Union paper reaches him.

Despite these handicaps, innumerable SO's make it a point to keep fully informed—especially at critical points during negotiations. They telephone—they drop into the Union office—they write. And they use their knowledge to be as good members of Local 1-S as they possibly can.

THIS IS GOOD, BUT IT CAN BE BETTER. We think that the full-timer, with his more complete communications system to the Union, can do an even better job of keeping the SO's posted and up-to-date. When a Shop Steward or Floor Committee takes up a grievance that might have a bearing on the Saturday-onlies, we think it's the job of the full-timers to let the SO's know the facts. We think that when there are reports on negotiations, it is to everyone's advantage to have the Saturday-onlies fully informed.

Forget for a moment that one thousand Saturday-onlies can be a powerful force within our organization. Think only in the simple, human terms that these men and women are our co-workers—facing many of the same problems and the same needs that we face. From this point of view alone they merit cooperation.

Then stop and think of these members as a force—including those not yet on the job long enough to be eligible for membership in Local 1-S. And we realize that maintaining the closest ties and friendly relations—even as we do amongst the full-timers and part-timers—is indispensable to our continued strength and future victories.

THE SATURDAY-ONLY MAY BE UNSUNG, but he is most certainly appreciated. He is an important part of the strength that is Local 1-S, and we just couldn't be as strong without him!

Branches Saw, Heard Reports On TV; Voted To Fight!

Linked with members at Manhattan Center by way of television, close to 2,000 1-S'ers in the branch stores heard first hand reports from their officers and then proceeded to their own discus-

sion and nearly-unanimous vote in favor of a strike.

While President Kovenetsky was conducting the Manhattan Center meeting, telephone reports of the branch store votes were relayed to

him. As each store's vote was announced, a mighty roar filled the hall. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the Union was solid—and able to fight on to a real victory!



AT FLATBUSH the unanimous vote came soon after the officers had completed their reports. Strikel



AT PARKCHESTER there were 295 who voted "Strikel", 3 voted against. The meeting was big, enthusiastic.



AT JAMAICA, too, the unanimous vote came soon after hearing the reports and lack of progress. Strikel



AT WHITE PLAINS, biggest of the branches, vote was unanimous and enthusiastic. They, too, said, "Strikel"



Looking ahead to their responsibilities when a contract is signed, and in the midst of the most intensive strike preparations, Stewards who had enrolled in the Cornell University Extension School course in Grievance Procedures and Leadership Techniques went ahead with their studies. Special efforts were made to keep these Stewards posted on developments at meetings they missed while in class.

We're Out to Win!...

(Continued from page 1)
at City Hall tomorrow for their raise!"

Near-Violence

Ceil Curry, Local 1-S' Secretary-Treasurer was the sole casualty in a midnight skirmish on 35th Street that hoped to discourage the UP drivers from pushing their trucks through the picketlines.

By pure good chance her injury was not as serious as had been first feared, and she was able to leave the hospital within a short time of her admission.

Only the tight discipline of the picketers avoided a more serious outbreak.

It was that "discipline and devotion" which won high praise from President Kovenetsky, as he hailed the entire membership at the Manhattan Center meeting.

When it became evident that all-out efforts would be made to get the trucks in—more as a symbol, it seems, than for their practical value—it was decided to avoid the almost inevitable bloodshed and allow them to pass. At the same time, appeals were addressed directly to the individual driver of each truck, and in many cases they responded.

There was much bitter comment among oldtimers who recalled ten days spent on picketlines in 1946

in support of the very drivers now torn with indecision.

The Meeting

At the meeting on April 10th, attorney Asher Schwartz reviewed the Union's position and attempts at a peaceful settlement in great detail. He described each step in the long journey from January 16th to April 10th.

If ever there had been any who doubted the Union's sober consideration of each step, there were none left at the report's end.

President Kovenetsky told the huge gathering of the last effort, even after the final session at the State Board of Mediation had ended in failure, to bring Macy's back to the bargaining table.

The meeting with Mr. Arthur

Stark, Executive Director of the mediation board, had ended late in the day on Monday. Macy's still had not budged. This was followed by a telegram to Macy's President Wheelock H. Bingham urging him to take over the talks for the company—and a final meeting with Macy's negotiator Fred Fischer. Again Macy's stood pat and coldly repeated that their last offer had been made.

At that point the fat was in the fire. There was no place left to go but out on strike. There was nothing left to do but to hit Macy's with the biggest, strongest and solidest picketlines they had ever seen. There was no one left to appeal to but the shopping public, and urge them to buy elsewhere "for the duration."

Jubilation

Actually, the decision to strike was greeted with great jubilation by almost all members. They were expressing great confidence in themselves and their ability to do what now had to be done.

They were also expressing their great resentment against Macy's for the company's failure to give them and their needs the serious consideration they merit.

As the second day of the strike ended jubilation, strength and confidence were high. All were agreed, "We're on the high road to victory!"



If you . . .
your husband
or wife . . .
or children
under 18 . . .

or parents
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And Rest Assured That
Local 1-S Will Do the Rest

DEMOCRATS OUST DONOVAN FOR PRO-LABOR CONGRESS CANDIDATE

Representative James Donovan of the 18th Congressional District and owner of one of the worst voting records among the Democrats in Congress, has been given the boot by the party's district leaders. He has been given the nomination of the GOP, however.

While Donovan has stated that he intends to enter his name in the Democratic Party primary campaign in an effort to capture the nomination, it has also been announced that at least one other

hopeful candidate will oppose him in the Republican primary election.

Pro-Labor

Donovan, who was first elected as a coalition candidate of the Democrats, the Republicans and the Liberals, has been dumped in favor of State Senator Alfred Santangelo.

Santangelo's voting record in Albany has earned labor's respect and support. His election would add considerable strength to that of the New York City Congressional delegation in Washington.

As a State Senator, Santangelo was one of the very few officials who called conferences of union representatives.

Local 1-S spokesmen present at these conferences joined other unionists in discussing pressing problems and were gratified to find many of their views reflected in bills introduced and speeches made by the Senator.

Members of Local 1-S who live in the 18th Congressional District would be doing themselves a favor if they pitched in and helped guarantee a Santangelo victory.

Primary Day is June 6th and all who registered last October will be eligible to vote. But whether you registered or not, you can help with clerical work and canvassing during the next six weeks.

Call Senator Santangelo at LE-high 4-4618 and ask how you can help replace a labor-hater with a friend. Do it now!

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including maternity and military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis **YOU MUST** see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office.

You are covered by The Health Plan only until the end of the month in which you leave the store, and have another 30 days within which to arrange for your direct payments.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan enters the hospital you **MUST** call on the Union office for claim forms **immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time.

PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Taxi meter clock. Excellent condition. Sacrifice. Phone LU 9-2119.

FOR SALE—Chair bed, with arms; venetian blinds, non-warp wood, to fit Parkchester living room and kitchen; 2 aquariums complete with fish, lights, heaters, etc. 1, 5½ gal., 1, 2½ gal.; Chicago roller skates and case, like new, size 8. Phone TA 8-3237.

FOR SALE—Bridal gown, size 9, reasonable. Best offer accepted. Phone DI 5-2349 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE—1950 Dodge Coronet 4 door sedan. Gyromatic. Excellent condition. Sacrifice. Call GE 6-7130 after 6 P.M.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you **CALL** the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank **CALL** the Union Office—WA 4-4540.



PLENTY OF TRAFFIC on the sidewalk, but if this is 50 per cent of normal by Macy's standards the store must be loaded with ghosts.

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